

**Apparatus and Method for Generating a Data Stream and  
Apparatus and Method for Reading a Data Stream**

Abstract

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10 An entropy encoder includes an apparatus (10) for  
generating a data stream which comprises two reference  
points, of code words of variable lengths, the apparatus  
comprising a first device (16) for writing at least a part  
15 of a code word into the data stream in a first direction of  
writing, starting from a first reference point, and a  
second device (18) for writing at least a part of a code  
word into the data stream in a second direction of writing,  
which is opposite to the first direction of writing,  
15 starting from the other reference point. In particular,  
when a raster having a plurality of segments is used to  
write the code words of variable lengths into the data  
stream, the number of the code words which can be written  
starting at raster points is doubled, in the best case,  
20 such that the data stream of code words of variable lengths  
is robust toward a propagation of sequence errors.

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